

NATION'S DEFENSE CLAIMS ATTENTION OF BUSINESS BODY

Universal Training Idea Advanced in Report to the U. S. Commerce Chamber.

FIRST SESSION TODAY
AT NEW WILLARD HOTEL

Committees and Speakers Discuss
Industrial and Military
Preparedness.

REVIEW OF THE R. R. SITUATION

Committee Suggested to Investigate
Probability of Strike of Employees.
Unusually Large Attendance
at Convention.

The fourth annual convention of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States began at 11 o'clock this morning at the New Willard Hotel, with many of the reports of committees and addresses dealing with the relation of industrial preparedness to that of increased military preparedness for the country adequate for national defense.

So great a tinge of this phase of the problems of the United States has been cast over the deliberations of the business men composing the national chamber that it was authoritatively learned at the convention today that the report which is to be made by the chamber's committee on national defense will recommend "universal military training" for the people of the United States, a phrase used, it is stated, in place of the word "conscription," which experts have recently declared in Washington means the same thing as universal and compulsory military service and training.

Chairman Withholds Comment.

Bacon Little, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Cleveland, Ohio, who is chairman of the committee on national defense, declined today to discuss the coming report of its industrial delivery. That afternoon, however, Secretary Daniels and Secretary Garrison are to address the convention, but he said he was not surprised that the fact that the committee intends to make such a recommendation has created widespread and favorable comment among the delegates to the convention.

"We are not army or navy men, in the national chamber," Mr. Little said, "we are just business men, without technical knowledge of this subject, but I think the attention of the country will be struck by this recommendation of the committee on the fact that we are business men."

Situation Engages Attention.

The railroad situation of the country and the possibility of a great strike which will tie up all the rail arteries of traffic and work tremendous hardships to the public, and to commerce and industry, is deeply engaging the attention of the board of directors of the national chamber, and hundreds of telegrams are coming to the convention from all over the country urging the organization to do what it can to halt the strike which is said to be impending.

Unusually Large Attendance.

The big ballroom of the New Willard Hotel was packed today with the delegates to the convention, twice as many as have come here for the gathering this year as ever before. More than 1,500 delegates have registered, and many of them are the presidents of big corporations, banks or other institutions from Maine to California and from Washington to Florida.

List of Resolutions.

Among the resolutions submitted to the convention, approved by the board of directors, were the following:

A proposal by the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce that "the federal reserve act, which now authorizes national banks to make, bankers' acceptances based on export and import trade, be amended to authorize national banks

(Continued on Second Page.)

DISREGARDS DREAM OF ARMOR BARONS

The Senate Naval Committee Votes, 9 to 3, to Recommend Government Plants.

TILLMAN BILL PROVIDES
\$11,000,000 FOR PROJECT

Action Taken Despite Notification
Private Manufacturers Will Raise
Plate Price \$200 a Ton.

Private armor plate manufacturers notified the Senate naval committee today that they would raise the price of armor plate \$200 a ton if Congress decides to erect or purchase armor-plate factories for the government. The committee nevertheless voted to recommend government plants.

Senator Penrose, republican of Pennsylvania notified the committee of the stand of the armor plate manufacturers, those chiefly concerned being the Bethlehem and Midvale steel companies.

The committee voted, nevertheless, 9 to 3, to report favorably Senator Tillman's bill to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to provide either by erection or purchase of an armor plate factory, or both, with capacity of not less than 20,000 tons of armor a year. The bill would appropriate \$11,000,000. Senator Penrose, Lodge and Smith of Michigan, republicans, voted against reporting the bill.

Chairman Tillman and Senators Swanson, Bryan, Johnson (Maine), Chilton, Phelan and Pittman, democrats, and Clapp and Poindecker, republicans, voted for it.

"The threat of the armor barons to hold up the government will not affect Congress," said Senator Tillman.

"We were given to understand that the armor manufacturers would increase their price because government manufacture of armor plate would force them to go out of that business and they would charge this enormous increase in order to provide themselves with an amortization fund. But I guess we can find a way to stop the robbers. In time of trouble we could seize their plants and operate them by right of eminent domain."

Other Bills Favored.

After brief consideration, the committee ordered favorably reported a bill authorizing expenditure of \$500,000 to equip Mare Island navy yard for battleship construction, and \$100,000 to enlarge facilities of the New York navy yard, and the bill to add 300 midshipmen to the entrance class at Annapolis next July. The two bills passed the House yesterday.

Senator Phelan, of the committee, agreed to consider his bill which would appropriate \$10,000,000 for construction of a new battleship, and a naval aviation academy. Senator Phelan was directed to furnish the committee with data on the need of such an academy.

Miss Boardman Presents Red Cross Society Aspects of Military Preparedness

Red Cross aspects of military preparedness were presented to the House today by Miss Boardman, chairman of the American Red Cross, who urged two legislative provisions in the pending army bill to provide for co-ordination of Red Cross work. Authority should be given the Secretary of War, she said, to detail additional officers to the Red Cross, to extend greater aid to the organization in its effort to organize hospital and supply columns for mobilization in war, and to permit the construction of Red Cross warehouses on government reservations in the twelve sections into which the country has been divided.

Describing the situation in Europe soon after the outbreak of the present war, Miss Boardman said the French Red Cross was divided into three branches, the American organized during the battle of the Marne, when the army was losing 3 per cent of its personnel and was believed to have been almost completely annihilated. She said, however, that the Red Cross had been saved, she said, due to lack of proper care.

Germans Worked Smoothly.

The German organization, on the other hand, worked as smoothly as the army on mobilization, and as a result 85.5 per cent of the wounded sent to hospitals returned to the front, and the hospital death rate dropped to 1.7 per cent, as against 5 per cent in the Russian-Japanese war.

SEE ELIMINATION OF JUSTICE HUGHES

Politicians Think Brandeis Confirmation May Keep New Yorker on Bench.

WOULD BE GOOD NEWS
FOR OTHER REPUBLICANS

McCall People's Efforts to Get Rid of Senator Weeks Also Interests Wiseacres.

Two phases of republican presidential politics are being discussed around the Capitol these days, one the possible bearing which the placing of Louis Brandeis on the Supreme bench may have upon Mr. Justice Hughes' future, the other the efforts of Gov. McCall's zealous friends to hamstring the Weeks boom.

If Mr. Brandeis is confirmed as associate justice of the Supreme Court, it is said that Mr. Justice Hughes may eliminate himself from any possibility of being nominated at Chicago. Some of the more cynical of the politicians declare that they see in the nomination of Mr. Brandeis a Machiavellian purpose on the part of President Wilson to rid himself of a formidable opponent by pinning Mr. Justice Hughes to the Supreme bench.

Might Open Way for Radical.

It is stated as a fact by persons in position to know that since the Brandeis nomination pressure has been brought to bear on Mr. Justice Hughes to induce him to put himself out of all consideration for the presidency and remain on the bench. The argument advanced is that his departure from the court would offer opportunity for the appointment of another democrat and possibly a radical.

It is well understood by all, of course, that Mr. Justice Hughes has done all that ethics require of him to be considered a presidential candidate. He has prohibited the use of his name in the primaries. But Mr. McCall's friends said that if the convention should stampede to him he might accept.

Only one thing could be done and that would be to declare that in no circumstances would he accept the nomination. It is said that a road would be lifted off the mind of Mr. Burton, Mr. Fairbanks, Mr. Weeks, Mr. Cummings and Mr. McCall, such announcement would be made.

Somebody "Spilled the Beans."

Somebody "down east" has apparently let in, to use a simile local to Boston, to "spill the beans" for Senator Weeks. The report is being assiduously circulated that Senator Weeks intends to retire from the presidential race and that his strength will go to Gov. McCall of his own state. Up to this time Gov. McCall has not seen fit to deny that he has presidential aspirations, and it is said that New England republicans are highly incensed over the situation.

According to these New Englanders, there could be but one result of a contest between Weeks and McCall, and that would be that the country would be divided into two camps, one for the black sea coast and along the northern shores of Lake Van. The official statement says:

"In the coast region our troops, having passed the Arkhava river, attacked the Turks and dislodged them from a series of trenches one above the other. On the northern shore of Lake Van we occupied the region east of Beldjavan. In Persia we drove back the enemy in the region of Kangavar."

1,429,171 PRISONERS HELD BY GERMANY

BERLIN, February 8.—"A total of 1,429,171 enemy soldiers to date are prisoners of war in Germany," the Overseas News Agency announces. These are inclusive of prisoners made by German troops and left in Austria-Hungary in order to shorten the transport.

"In addition, 19,700 cannon, 7,000 military carriages and 3,000 machine guns have been conveyed to Germany. These not including numerous cannon and machine guns destroyed by the enemy before capture and those used at once by German troops."

FIFTH SON OF KAISER IS WOUNDED BY SHELL

AMSTERDAM, via London, February 8.—Prince Oscar of Prussia, fifth son of Emperor William, has been slightly wounded in the head and on the upper part of the thigh by shell splinters during fighting in the eastern war theater, according to a Berlin official report received here.

KITCHENER LIKELY TO LEAD IN EGYPT

Earl of Derby May Be New War Secretary—Russ Gain in Caucasus.

LONDON, February 8.—The Weekly World says it hears that Field Marshal Lord Kitchener is likely to take over command of the British forces in Egypt and that the Earl of Derby, the director of recruiting, will be the new secretary of state for war, with a seat in the cabinet.

The World gives no authority for the report, but says it is gossip in line with recent intimations that Earl Kitchener might withdraw from the war ministry to assume more active duties.

Russ Active in Caucasus.

In the Caucasus the Russian army is active. The Petrograd war office reports continued advances there against the Turks, both north and south of Erzerum. The Russian forces having pressed farther westward along the black sea coast and along the northern shores of Lake Van. The official statement says:

"In the coast region our troops, having passed the Arkhava river, attacked the Turks and dislodged them from a series of trenches one above the other. On the northern shore of Lake Van we occupied the region east of Beldjavan. In Persia we drove back the enemy in the region of Kangavar."

British to Stand Firm.

An official communication from military headquarters in Delhi says that Gen. Townshend is holding Kut-el-Amara as a point of strategic value and that Gen. Aymer's operations are being carried out for the purpose of supporting Gen. Townshend at that point. The communication adds that no withdrawal is contemplated.

BETTER DRESS FOR MEN.

Merchant Tailors at St. Louis Hope to Raise the Standard.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., February 8.—Styles for men will be considered during the three-day convention of the National Association of Merchant Tailors, which assembled here today.

It is predicted that few startling designs will be shown. The convention, however, will make an effort to raise the standard of men's dress, and with this object in view a special exhibit of apparel is being held.

The convention is expected to discuss a national apprenticeship system.

Preparing for St. Louis Convention.

ST. LOUIS, February 8.—The subcommittee of the democratic national committee met here today to make preliminary arrangements for the June 14 convention.

American Car for Gen. Joffre.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., February 8.—Gen. Joseph Joffre, commander of the French armies, soon will be presented with an American automobile for his personal use, according to plans of Mrs. E. Blish Thompson, widow of a Seymour, Ind., man, who was lost when the Lusitania was torpedoed. Mrs. Thompson has brought the car to Indianapolis, where it is being overhauled preparatory to shipping it to France. Government officials here express the belief that loss of life this winter among the herds of big game has been small.

Have to Feed Big Game.

GARDNER, Mont., February 8.—Driven from the mountainous portion of the Yellowstone National Park by heavy snows, which prevented their grazing, 3,000 elk, 2,000 deer and several hundred mountain sheep are being fed by park officials daily a few miles from the entrance to the park. Government officials here express the belief that loss of life this winter among the herds of big game has been small.

EXTRADITION IS ASKED FOR HIPPOLITO VILLA

Wanted on Texas Indictment Charging Complicity in Cutting Railway Line.

The United States has asked Cuba for the extradition of Hippolito Villa, Gen. Villa's brother, to answer an indictment in Texas charging complicity in cutting the line of the Southern Pacific railway near El Paso in December, in an attempt to hamper the movement of Carranza forces through American territory to attack Villa forces in Mexico. Villa has been arrested in Havana.

Consul Silliman has reported, in connection with the coming presidential convention, that Foreign Minister Acuna has informed him that "the convention will be civilian and not military," and that it "will consist of delegates chosen by the people." The date for the convention has not been determined, but the foreign minister assured Mr. Silliman it will not be long delayed.

Villa's Brother Arrested in Cuba.

HAVANA, February 8.—Col. Hippolito Villa, brother of Gen. Francisco Villa, has been arrested at the request of William E. Gonzales, the American minister to Cuba. Villa is charged with damaging the railroad near El Paso. He was placed in jail to await extradition proceedings. Villa denied having any connection with the destruction of the railroad. He said he believed that his arrest was due to the belief of the American government that to him as a hostage his brother, Francisco, would cease killing Americans. He added, however, that this was a mistake, as he was not a carter whether he was dead or alive.

REPORT THAT VILLA AIMS TO FORCE INTERVENTION

Said to Have Declared He Will Cross Border and Hold Up Train, if Necessary.

EL PASO, Tex., February 8.—A statement that Francisco Villa had threatened to force intervention by the United States within six weeks was brought to the attention of American officials here and Mexican authorities at Juarez today. The statement was made by a Mexican from Madera, who said Villa declared he would cross the international border and hold up an El Paso and Southwestern railway train if intervention could be produced in no other way.

Gen. Gaviara, commandant at Juarez, was without word early in the day on the progress for his Carranza troops in their search for Villa. The last word received at military headquarters at Juarez reported Villa with twenty-five men in Canyon de El Nido.

HIS LETTER A KEEPSAKE.

Girl Who Started Battleship Fund Hears From Col. Roosevelt.

NEW YORK, February 8.—Marjorie Sterrett, a Brooklyn girl, who started a fund to build a battleship for Uncle Sam by sending a dime and writing a letter to a New York newspaper calling upon other children to contribute a like amount, is treasuring today a letter from Col. Theodore Roosevelt, in which he inclosed ten dimes.

Col. Roosevelt said that four of them were for his four grandchildren and the other six for his grandchildren who "are not born yet." Marjorie's fund now amounts to \$55.30.

PROVIDE FOR D. C. MEN IN POSITIONS

Home Rule Principle in Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds Bills.

The home rule principle for the public offices under the District of Columbia was written into both the recorder of deeds bill and the register of wills bill, reported favorably with amendments from the House District committee today, and the Johnson "false advertising" measure also was ordered reported so as to be placed on the House calendar. The trio of measures will be ready for debate and passage by the House on the next District day, February 14.

There was little surprise expressed by some of the committee members over the fact that both of the appointment measures were reported out with the amendments making eligible only bona fide residents of the District of three years' standing. The Judiciary subcommittee had introduced the bill, and the Johnson "false advertising" measure also was ordered reported so as to be placed on the House calendar. The trio of measures will be ready for debate and passage by the House on the next District day, February 14.

Confers Appointive Power.

The effect of the bills, as has been published, is to give the Commissioners power to appoint a district resident to the office of recorder of deeds, and to give the Supreme Court of the District power to appoint a District resident as register of wills.

The bills also are amended so as to give the power of removal from office to the same authorities that appoint the officers.

The Johnson "false advertising bill" is a modification of the measure proposed by introduction by the Retail Merchants' Association.

It makes it unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to advertise or purport to be made public in any way by all the devices known to advertising and publicity experts any "false, untrue or misleading statement, representation or advertisement with a fraudulent intent to deceive, mislead or induce any person, firm, association or corporation to purchase, discount or in any way invest in or accept as collateral security any bonds, bill, share of stock, note, warehouse receipt, or any security, or with the fraudulent purpose to deceive, mislead or induce any person, firm, association or corporation to purchase, make any loan upon or invest in any property of any kind, or use any of the aforesaid methods with the fraudulent intent or purpose to deceive, mislead or induce any person, firm or corporation for a valuable consideration to employ the services of any person, firm, association or corporation so advertising such services."

Penalties are placed at a maximum fine of \$500, maximum imprisonment of sixty days or both.

APAM PASSENGERS SAIL.

Dutch Flag the Fourth Under Which They Have Voyaged.

NEW YORK, February 8.—One hundred and fifty passengers originally booked on the British steamship Appam for passage from West Africa to England, whose voyage was interrupted when their ship was captured by the German and taken to Newport News, have sailed from here on the Holland-America steamship Noordam for Falmouth.

The Dutch flag is the fourth they have sailed under since they left Africa. They were under the stars and stripes when they were brought here on an American ship from Newport News.

The crews of the Appam and other British vessels captured by the raider will be sent home on the liner Baltic.

BREAK OVER LUSITANIA NO LONGER THREATENS, TODAY'S OFFICIAL VIEW

Germany and the United States Now Said to Be "Substantially in Accord" on Issue.

Latest Note From Berlin Government Declared to Be Almost, If Not Entirely, Acceptable to the Washington Administration.

Following today's conference at the White House between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing with high officials of the administration authorized the statement that "the United States and Germany are substantially in accord."

Germany's latest reply was characterized as almost, if not entirely, acceptable to the United States.

SITUATION TERMED "VERY HOPEFUL."

Prior to authorization of the announcement Secretary Lansing had conferred with President Wilson more than an hour and the case had been discussed at length at the cabinet meeting.

The whole situation was described by administration officials as "very hopeful."

To See German Ambassador.

Later today Secretary Lansing will confer with Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador. It is expected he will communicate to the ambassador the American government's view of the latest proposal from Berlin, which substituted for the word "illegal," in the reference to the sinking of the Lusitania, a declaration that reprisals must not be extended to other than enemy subjects.

Now Beyond Danger Point.

The view reflected by administration officials, while all of them steadfastly refrain from making any official announcement, is that this declaration, with the assurance Germany previously had given, and with the other features of the Lusitania agreement already agreed upon, is practically satisfactory, and that if any further changes are necessary, the way is open for them without endangering the success of the negotiations.

Some formal announcement indicating a satisfactory conclusion of the long controversy is expected soon.

One administration official indicated it would not be necessary for the United States to make any further suggestion to Germany.

Think the End Is Near.

The statement that a mere question of words would not be permitted to block a settlement of the case at this stage, which came from the highest authority, has thrown an atmosphere of optimism about the situation which continues to lead officials in close touch with the negotiations to believe that a successful termination of the case is close at hand.

Terms of the Agreement.

With the two governments substantially in accord, the next step in the proceeding will be to put the settlement, when finally agreed upon, in a formal document to be presented to the State Department in behalf of the Berlin foreign office.

Besides containing the declaration that reprisals must not be directed against others than enemies, the promise of indemnity for American lives lost on the Lusitania, and a declaration of Germany's desire to co-operate with the United States to secure the freedom of the seas, it is understood that it will either incorporate or attention will be directed to the assurances Germany gave in a similar case that liners would not be sunk without warning or provision being made for the safety of those on board unless they resisted capture or attempted to flee.

The inclusion of all these points is understood to embrace everything for which the United States has contended, which the United States has contended.

Hope for Agreement Today.

One high administration official said that the case could not be considered finally settled, but that it was hoped a settlement might be reached during the conference today between Secretary Lansing and the German ambassador, although that was not absolutely certain.

It was understood that the exact wording of the communication submitted by Count von Bernstorff was not in entire accord with the views of the President and the cabinet.

EXPECTS AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT WITH U. S.

German Paper Warns People Not to Be Too Sure, However.

GERALDINE FARRAR WEBS. Becomes Bride of Lou Tellegen, the Actor.

NEW YORK, February 8.—Geraldine Farrar, opera singer, and Lou Tellegen, actor, were married here at noon today at the home of Miss Farrar's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Farrar. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Leon A. Harvey, secretary of the Unitarian denomination, headquarters in this city. Charles A. Ellis, manager of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and C. G. Childs of Baltimore, friends of Mr. Tellegen and his bride, were among the few witnesses. Mr. and Mrs. Tellegen put today by the Overseas News Agency. "But if England should become impoverished, that would mean the end of Britannia."